

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 052905
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL:PDW
APPROVED BY P:PHABIB
NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.
S/S:PBRIDGES

-----100038Z 094592 /66

O P 100016Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 052905

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, IS, UN

SUBJECT: SARKIS MESSAGE ON UN FORCE FOR SOUTH LEBANON

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 1614, (B) USUN 650, (C) BEIRUT 865

1. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB RECEIVED ARAB LEAGUE ENVOY GHASSAN TUEINI MARCH 8. SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE AROSE IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH OTHERS PRESENT. UNDER SECRETARY TOLD TUEINI THAT ISRAELIS HAD EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS RE IDEA ON OCCASION OF OUR INITIAL SOUNDING. WHEN TUEINI INQUIRED IF ISRAELI OPPOSITION WAS FINAL, HABIB SAID IT HAD CERTAINLY BEEN NEGATIVE AND
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WE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR SARKIS'S DECISION TO PURSUE IDEA TO TEST FIRMNESS OF ISRAELI POSITION. TUEINI REMAINED BEHIND WITH HABIB FOR FEW MOMENTS TO PASS PRIVATE MESSAGE FROM SARKIS. TUEINI SAID SARKIS HAD ASKED HIM TO STRESS THAT HE (SARKIS) WAS VERY SERIOUS ABOUT UN FORCE FOR SOUTH LEBANON AND WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH PARKER AFTER HIS RETURN FROM CAIRO TO PURSUE IDEA. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER SARKIS

HAD COMMUNICATED WITH TUEINI FROM CAIRO, BUT IT SOUNDS
LIKELY.

2. FYI. PRIMIN RABIN, IN CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY
HERE, HAS REACTED TO CONCEPT OF UN FORCE IN A GENERALLY

NEGATIVE AND SKEPTICAL WAY, SAYING HE DID NOT THINK A
UN FORCE WAS THE SOLUTION. WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD SIMPLY
LISTEN TO WHATEVER SARKIS MAY TELL YOU ABOUT THE ATTITUDES
OF THE MARONITES, PALESTINIANS, SYRIANS, AND OTHER ARAB
GOVERNMENTS TOWARDS THE UN FORCE. THESE ATTITUDES WOULD
COLOR WHATEVER WE CAN SAY IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS
ORIGINALLY POSED TO YOU BY BOUTROS (BEIRUT 865). YOU MAY,
HOWEVER, DRAW ON USUN 650 TO DESCRIBE SELECTIVELY
URQUHART'S VIEWS ABOUT THE TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF
PUTTING TOGETHER A FORCE. IN MENTIONING ISRAEL'S
NEGATIVE ATTITUDE, YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE HAVE
TAKEN ONLY PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS PENDING THE LEBANESE
DECISION ON WHETHER THEY WILL MOVE FORWARD WITH CONCEPT
AND HAVE COME TO NO CONCLUSIONS OF OUR OWN UNTIL WE HAVE
CLEARER IDEA OF WHAT GOL HAS IN MIND AND WHETHER IT PLANS
TO PURSUE THIS IDEA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE052905
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WNHOWELL:PDW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770081-0868
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770373/aaaaclys.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6ef53dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 1614, 77 USUN NEW YORK 650, 77 BEIRUT 865
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3148817
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SARKIS MESSAGE ON UN FORCE FOR SOUTH LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, IS, US, UN, (HABIB, PHILIP C), (TUEINI, GHASSAN)
To: BEIRUT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6ef53dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009